

Annual Safeguarding Statement of Assurance

Academic Year 2020 – 2021

1. Nexus Multi Academy Trust provides high quality educational provision for children and young people on roll at:
 - Abbey Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Bader Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Becton Hospital Academy, Sheffield;
 - Craggs Primary Academy, Rotherham;
 - Coppice Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Heatherwood Special Academy, Doncaster
 - Hilltop Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - Kelford Special Academy, Rotherham;
 - North Ridge Special Academy, Doncaster;
 - Pennine View Special Academy, Doncaster.
2. The Nexus MAT Board of Directors understands the safeguarding responsibilities placed upon the Trust as outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 and considers them of vital importance.
3. The organisation meets its statutory requirements in relation to the Disclosure and Barring Scheme. Trust policy ensures all employees and volunteers who work with children and young adults have had appropriate checks and that these are recorded – along with other relevant information – on the Single Central Record of each academy.
4. Audits of the Single Central Record are undertaken twice a year by the Trust's HR Consultant. All 10 academies received an audit report with areas for action.
5. The Trust's Lead Headteacher undertook a refreshed section.175 audit throughout 2020/21 with all Heads of the Trust, reporting findings to the Spring Standards Committee.
6. Safeguarding policies are up to date. Policies are reviewed regularly by the Headteacher and Local Governing Body (at least annually) and updated in response to national guidance and model documents issued by Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

7. There is a Board Director who is the named lead for safeguarding. The Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation at least 3 times a year through the work of the Standards Committee, which is underpinned by the challenge and support provided by academy Local Governing Bodies and the reports they receive.
8. The executive lead for safeguarding across the Academy Trust is the Chief Executive Officer. Safeguarding is an area of focus in monthly supervision sessions between the CEO and all Headteachers.
9. Each academy has a named Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Each Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is offered half termly supervision from an external social work consultant, commissioned by the Trust. This is optional, though all DSLs engage in this process openly.
10. All staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training, both core and on specific subjects or themes (such as child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation etc). This is delivered by the DSL in each school, and all DSLs attend training delivered by their Local Safeguarding Children Partnership. In some cases, external experts are brought in to schools to deliver specific workshops on specialist subject areas. There is a plan in place in each academy which provides clear expectations of training, linked to their section 175 audit. This is delivered through face-to-face sessions on school INSET and/or twilight sessions, with updates shared at regular whole-school workforce briefing sessions.
11. The Trust has a named e-safety lead for each academy and facilitates half termly network meetings to share best practice and ensure peer support and development opportunities are in place.
12. Each academy has a named link governor for safeguarding. Local Governing Bodies review safeguarding across their academy at least 3 times a year through the business meetings cycle for local governance. The reports submitted to LGBs are then amalgamated into a Trust-level report for the Standards Committee.
13. All schools remained open throughout the January – March lockdown measures 2021, with vulnerable pupils – in a safeguarding context – attending with the support of social care. Where pupils have been kept at home during lockdown, schools remained in daily contact and many schools undertook home visits for pupils at least once a week, as an additional safeguarding measure.

14. Behaviour and wellbeing is reporting on separately to local governing bodies, to ensure a holistic view of safeguarding and welfare is presented.
15. All academies refreshed their Relationships and Sex Education policies in 2020-21 in line with DfE requirements. The recent [Ofsted review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges](#) has already been discussed with the Named Director for Safeguarding and further audit and review work is being taken forward by the Lead Head, in response to Ofsted’s recommendations. This will be a key area of focus for the Trust in 2021-22 and will be reflected in updates to Keeping Children Safe in Education in the autumn, which all employees will be trained in.
16. On 5 November 2020, one of our academies experienced the tragic loss of life of a pupil on the school site. The death was unexpected and this prompted the necessary investigations from statutory agencies to understand what happened. The Trust elected to submit a self-referral to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), even though the threshold for referral wasn’t met. The named Director for safeguarding was kept informed at all times by the CEO, and a copy of the HSE referral report – undertaken by the Trust’s commissioned Competent Person – was also shared with them. The coroner concluded the death was due to an underlying unknown medical condition and could not have been predicted or prevented. Whilst this ultimately raised no safeguarding questions for the school or Trust, it would be remiss to not include reference to this tragedy in this annual statement.
17. On 18 March 2021 the Named Director for Safeguarding met with Headteachers from the Trust academies to discuss safeguarding practices in the schools. This was reported back to the Standards Committee at the meeting on 22 March 2021.
18. On the basis of this work, Nexus Multi Academy Trust confirms it has considered its position in regard to safeguarding children and has assurance that it is meeting requirements and is following good practice.

Name:	Peter Castleton
Designated:	Named Director – Safeguarding
Date:	12 July 2021